

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 169

Introduced by Assembly Member Portantino

January 29, 2009

An act to amend Section 121060 of the Health and Safety Code, relating to communicable disease.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 169, as introduced, Portantino. Communicable disease: involuntary testing.

Existing law establishes procedures by which an arrestee's blood may be tested, either voluntarily or by court order, for specified communicable diseases when a peace officer, firefighter, or emergency medical personnel is exposed to an arrestee's blood or bodily fluids, as defined, while the peace officer, firefighter, or emergency medical personnel is acting within the scope of his or her duties.

This bill would add custodial officers, to the list of persons who may seek to have an arrestee's blood tested, either voluntarily or by court order, for specified communicable diseases when the custodial officer is exposed to that arrestee's blood or bodily fluids, as defined, while the custodial officer is acting within the scope of his or her duties. Because this bill increases the duties of local officials, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state,

reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to these statutory provisions.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: yes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 121060 of the Health and Safety Code
2 is amended to read:

3 121060. (a) Any peace officer, firefighter, *custodial officer*,
4 *as described by Section 831 of the Penal Code*, or emergency
5 medical personnel who, while acting within the scope of his or her
6 duties, is exposed to an arrestee's blood or bodily fluids, as defined
7 in Section 121060.1, shall do the following:

8 (1) Prior to filing a petition with the court, a licensed health care
9 provider shall notify the arrestee of the bloodborne pathogen
10 exposure and make a good faith effort to obtain the voluntary
11 informed consent of the arrestee or the arrestee's authorized legal
12 representative to perform a test for Human Immunodeficiency
13 Virus (HIV), hepatitis B, and hepatitis C. The voluntary informed
14 consent shall be in writing. Once consent is given in writing, the
15 arrestee shall provide three specimens of blood for testing as
16 provided in this chapter.

17 (2) If voluntary informed consent is not given in writing, the
18 affected individual may petition, ex parte, the court for an order
19 requiring testing as provided in this chapter. The petition shall
20 include a written certification by a health care professional that an
21 exposure, including the nature and extent of the exposure, has
22 occurred.

23 (b) The court shall promptly conduct a hearing upon a petition
24 filed pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (a). If the court finds
25 that probable cause exists to believe that a possible bloodborne
26 pathogen exposure, as defined in Section 121060.1, took place
27 between the arrestee and the peace officer, firefighter, *custodial*
28 *officer*, or emergency medical personnel, as specified in this
29 section, the court shall order that the arrestee provide three
30 specimens of blood for testing as provided in this chapter.

31 (c) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), copies of the test
32 results shall be sent to the arrestee, each peace officer, firefighter,
33 *custodial officer*, and emergency medical personnel named in the

1 petition and his or her employing agency, officer, or entity, and if
2 the arrestee is incarcerated or detained, to the officer in charge and
3 the chief medical officer of the facility where the person is
4 incarcerated or detained.

5 (2) The person whose sample was tested, shall be advised that
6 he or she will be informed of the hepatitis B, hepatitis C, and HIV
7 test results only if he or she wishes to be so informed. If the person
8 consents to be informed of the hepatitis B, hepatitis C, and HIV
9 test results, then he or she shall sign a form documenting that
10 consent. The person's refusal to sign that form shall be construed
11 to be a refusal to be informed of the hepatitis B, hepatitis C, and
12 HIV test results.

13 (3) Except as otherwise provided under this section, all
14 confidentiality requirements regarding medical records shall apply
15 to the test results obtained.

16 SEC. 2. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that
17 this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to
18 local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made
19 pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division
20 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.